Dear Members and Friends from the Collegium,

Four and a half centuries ago, Jan Rubens, the father of the painter, was sent from Antwerp to Rome by his parents to complete his education as lawyer. At that time, even in Northern Europe, Rome was indeed considered to be the source of knowledge (Fons sapientiae). Some forty years later, around 1600, Peter Paul Rubens decided to follow the steps of his father and left Antwerp for Italy. He first stayed some time in Mantua (Lombardy) and then moved to Rome, where he spent eight years that were going to shape his entire professional existence.

Although the traveling conditions have considerably changed since that period, a symbolic parallel may be outlined with Corlas. After the conference organised in 2011 by Philippe Lefevre in Bruges, a charming Flemish middle-age city located not far away from Antwerp, Corlas members held their meeting in Rome, at the invitation of Roberto Filipo. The prestige of the Italian capital, the remarkable social programme built by President Roberto Filipo and his team, the quality of the speakers selected for the two Minisymposia and the other scientific sessions convinced some 200 members, guests and their accompanying persons to attend the conference. This large attendance was also made possible by the early and excellent announcement on the congress website. It rapidly became obvious that the whole Italian Corlas group was behind their President and Vice-President – Edoardo Arslan – an affirmation that gave further strength to the whole meeting.

The family tour took place on Sunday August 26 and enabled more than 120 members and accompanying persons to visit the vestiges of Tivoli. Located 30 km from Rome, this historical place has gained worldwide notoriety when two of its villas received the label of UNESCO World Heritage site. The first one called Villa Adriana bears the name of the Roman emperor Hadrian who decided to build there, during the second century, the new imperial residence. This plateau, sufficiently distant from Rome, supplied with water by several aqueducts, and rich of travertine carriers was considered by him as having a good profile for such a construction.
Two pictures illustrate what we saw in the magnificent area of Villa Adriana. According to historians, the pool shown in Picture 1 was designed by Hadrian in remembrance of his Greek favourite, Antinous, whose statue is identifiable in the back with a shield. In a legendary tale Antinous perished drowning in the River Nile, close to the Egyptian city of Canopus. The pool is supposed to represent the canal linking Canopus and Alexandria, symbolising the river where the emperor and his friend sailed just before the latter disappeared. This interpretation also might explain the presence of standing Egyptian statues on the left.

The maritime theatre, of Greek inspiration, is shown in Picture 2.
The second masterpiece in Tivoli that received UNESCO recognition of World Heritage is **Villa D’Este**. It is a remarkable example of Renaissance architecture and Italian garden. The commissioner of this villa, Cardinal d’Este, created a setting surrounded by an impressive terraced garden in the late-Renaissance mannerist style. Corlas participants having a cool drink under surveillance of Roberto Filipo (on the right) are seen in Picture 3.

After an excellent lunch served under an arbour, buses brought us back to the Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel. This hotel was indeed the Conference hosting place of this year. Being able to stay in the immediate vicinity of the famous art Gallery Borghese was an ideal opportunity to visit a splendid collection of sculptures and paintings, and to walk along the wooded alleys of Villa Borghese.

As at each Corlas meeting the **Board** met on the day preceding the Family Tour. In the room arranged for us in Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel, Roberto Filipo received the Presidential Medal from the hands of Philippe Lefebvre. During the year preceding this intense moment, Roberto Filipo has been working hard with his local committee – Maurizio Barbara, Gaetano Paludetti and Almadori Giovanni (all from Rome) – along with the other Italian Corlas members, especially Edoardo Arslan (Padua), Mario Bussi (Milan), Alessandro Martini (Padua), Antonio Quaranta (Bari) and Rosamaria Santarelli (Padua) – and naturally Loredana Tranchina (administrator of the event-organizing company).

From this instant the Board was chaired by **Roberto Filipo**, with the presidential Corlas flag – offered by the Finnish group since 2003 – in front of him. The other members of the Board were: Edoardo Arslan (**Vice-President**), Reidar Grénman (**Treasurer**, Turku), Wolfgang Arnold
Councillor, Munich), Mamoru Suzuki (Councillor, Tokyo), Hamlet Suarez (Councillor, Montevideo), P. Ashley Wackym (Second Secretary, Portland), Matti Anniko (Editorial secretary acting on behalf of Acta Otolaryngologica) and Metin Önerci (President-Elect, Ankara). Mark Jorissen (former Vice-President, Leuven) had sent to the General Secretary his apologies for being unable to attend the conference this year.

A minute of silence was respected in remembrance of the three members who passed away during the year: Saumil Merchant (Boston, 1960-2012), S.D.G Stephens (Cardiff, 1942-2012), and C. Satyanarayana (Madras, 1914-2012).

Then after the Board made the following resolutions: (1) Attribution of the Shambaugh Prize to Jeffrey Harris (San Diego) for his outstanding work on the inner ear pathology and therapy; (2) Approval of the Treasurer report neatly prepared by Reidar Grénman; (3) Duration of National chairmanship limited to 5 years, the only exception to this rule being the possibility for the national group to appoint the same member for another and last 5-year term; (4) Continuing to send by email and/or website the Annual report of the General Secretary and the individual Dues format prepared by the Treasurer; on special request postal mailing will be used unless the related fees become too high according to the General Secretary and the Treasurer; (5) Replacement of Mamoru Suzuki, on his request and at the end of the second term, by Yasuo Hisa as Councillor from 2013; the Board expresses his gratitude to Mamoru for his relevant and fine suggestions during these years, as well as his efficiency with Yasuo Hisa in renewing the Japanese group; (6) After discussion with the Credentials Committee (Allen Ryan as President, Patrice Tran Ba Huy and René Leemans) a list of 14 new members is accepted (see below) based on their scientific independence and collegiality; (7) Acceptance of the plans presented by Metin Önerci for his meeting in Istanbul in August 2014; (8) Gratitude to P. Ashley Wackym for the very good programme he prepared on behalf of Corlas for the Corlas symposium at the IFOS World Congress in Seoul, Monday 3 June 2013. The theme of the session will be Regeneration, Restoration and Rehabilitation in Otorhinolaryngology. During the lunch that will follow this symposium, Metin Önerci will receive from Roberto Filipo the Presidential chain, indicating the start of his one-year term that will lead him to the organisation of the next Corlas meeting in August 2014; (9) The next Board meeting will be held in Istanbul 2014 and, consequently, this is when the recommendations of the Credentials Committee for the new members will be given.

The New members accepted this year are John Carey (USA, Baltimore), Mu-Kuan Chen (Taiwan, Changhua), Vincent Couloigner (France, Paris), Ingeborg Dhooge (Belgium, Gent), Adrien A. Eshraghi (France, Miami), Jens Klußmann (Germany, Giessen), Erick Lin (USA, Atlanta), Christian Righini (France, Grenoble), Philippe Rombaux (Belgium, Louvain), Daniel Tollin (USA, Aurora), Elina Toskala (Finland, Philadelphia), Richard Louis Voegels (Brazil, Sao Paulo), Brian D. Westerberg (Canada, Vancouver), and Floris Wuyts (Belgium, Antwerp).
The conference started on **Monday 27 August** with a remarkable lecture on Ancient Rome by P. Carafa, professor of Roman and Greek art history and archaeology. The successive steps of the progression from the beginning of the city to its Golden age were beautifully depicted by new technologies of 3D-reconstruction. After this Historical report, the **Future of academic medicine** was discussed in a round table to which participated three distinguished speakers: John Niparko (USA, Baltimore), Reidar Grénman (Finland, Turku), and Chong Kim (Korea, Seoul), your general secretary serving as moderator. Before the accompanying persons were invited to join the social programme, **Jeffrey Harris** (USA, San Diego) was officially awarded with the Shambaugh Prize, receiving from the hands of Roberto Filipo the Medal prepared by P. Ashley Wackym on behalf of the whole US group. The words used by the recipient to acknowledge the honour of being awarded were a perfect mirror of his personality, full of humility and gratefulness to his team.

The **scientific programme** of the three-day conference can only be briefly summarized in this report. Close to one hundred presentations were given, either orally (N=76) or through posters (N=21). Japan was the country which contributed the most this year with 18 presentations (12 oral and 6 posters). The next largest contributions were from the USA with 13 presentations (12 oral and 1 poster), Italy with 7 presentations (5 oral and 2 posters) and The Netherlands with 6 presentations (all oral).

Interestingly, 14 **new members** made presentations, all oral (10 in Otology and 4 in Head and Neck Surgery). The pre-eminence of Otology was unquestionable this year with a total amount of 73 presentations (59 oral and 14 posters), as compared to the 17 presentations in Head and Neck Surgery (14 oral and 3 posters) and even more the 7 presentations in Rhinology (3 oral and 4 posters). These unequal figures indicate that there is a need for more participants in the field of Head and Neck Surgery and an even greater effort to promote Rhinology in our society. This being said, the two Minisymposia of this year, conducted one by Roberto Filipo on **Inner ear pharmacotherapy and drug delivery systems**, and the other by John Niparko on **Early cochlear implants in children**, were both excellent and of great interest to the large audience.

Contrary to the habits, the Business meeting (or General assembly) couldn’t be held on the **first day** of the conference, but on the second day (Tuesday 28 August). Indeed, on Monday evening all participants were invited by Roberto Filipo and the sponsor of this special event – MedEl – to visit privately the **Vatican Museum** and the **Sistine Chapel**. An example of the numerous masterpieces we were fortunate to admire on this occasion is illustrated in Picture 4. A portico with arches and colonnades, busts and standing statues, made of antique marbles and representing various mythological figures and countries (Greece, Egypt, and Roman Empire) coexist in the same room, giving an impression of architectural symphony.
The perfect organisation set by Roberto Filipo allowed us to have an excellent dinner in an Ancient club for clay pigeon shooting and, afterwards, to welcome the New members (Picture 6). The smiles that appear on the faces of the new comers suggest that the trial was not too difficult, although impressive at first sight. After individual presentation, each new member received from the hands of our Treasurer, Reidar Grénman the Corlas Historical
On the same evening our dear accompanying persons enjoyed a guided visit to the National Gallery of Modern Art, located in Villa Borghese. During the dinner at Caffè delle Arti speeches were given by Grazia Filipo, the charming wife of Roberto, Seija Grénman and Catherine. The will of these three ladies to maintain the long-standing tradition of Corlas with elegance was highly appreciated. My gratitude is a small recognition of all the work they accomplished to look after the accompanying persons, those who “know all of us” as uses to say one of my dear friends of Corlas.

The Gala dinner was held in a historical monastery on the Aventine hill. Some refreshing drinks were first served in the garden of the cloister and I still remember the US recipients of the Shambaugh Prize wearing their Medal chain with smartness, in the centre of musicians playing Italian tunes. From the ramparts of the garden where a delicious dinner was served (Picture 7), members, guests and accompanying persons had a gripping view of Rome. These are privileged instants that we will not forget. Finally, Ivan Keogh, a young guest from Galway, was awarded with the Benjamins Prize.

Before wishing you all a Happy New Year, I would like to thank Zhou Liang (Shanghai) as author of the pictures included in this report. I would also like to express my thankfulness to
István Sziklai, whose initiative two years ago permitted to offer to Roberto Filipo, on your behalf, a very nice replication of the Presidential chain at the end of the conference.

It is unusual to show pictures of the Post-congress tour in the annual report and their number will therefore be limited to two. The first is a view of the Borgo di Castelvecchio where the 45 participants were hosted for 3 days. To the Corlas members who did not have the opportunity to stay, it gives an overview of the extraordinary landscapes we saw in Tuscany.

The last picture will be for Roberto, appearing at the window of his room on the last day. The conference was over and the post-congress was near the end. What was he thinking of, looking at this scenery? May be he thought “Did they like Italy, Rome, the conference, the dinners, the tour in Tuscany?” Yes we did Roberto, tremendously. Thank you so much for all you have done to welcome us so warmly, showing the best of your country. Isn’t this, also, the spirit of the Collegium?